

**THE FIRST RECORDS OF *ANTHENE SELTUTTUS SELTUTTUS*
(RÖBER, 1886) AND *ANTHENE LYCAENOIDES SUTRANA*
(FRUHSTORFER, 1916) (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE:
POLYOMMATINAE) FROM NORTHERN TORRES STRAIT,
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

S.S. BROWN¹, C.E. MEYER² and R.P. WEIR³

¹19 Kimberley Drive, Bowral, NSW 2576 (Email: stnac@bigpond.com)

²29 Silky Oak Avenue, Moggill, Qld 4070 (Email: cmameyer@bigpond.com)

³90 Horne Road, Bees Creek, NT 0822 (Email: richard.weir@nt.gov.au)

Abstract

Anthene seltuttus seltuttus (Röber, 1886) and *Anthene lycaenoides sutrana* (Fruhstorfer, 1916) are recorded from northern Torres Strait, Queensland, Australia for the first time. Specimens of both were collected on Dauan Island and a single female of *Anthene seltuttus seltuttus* was also collected on neighbouring Saibai Island.

Introduction

The genus *Anthene* Doubleday, 1847 contains about 100 species occurring in the Afrotropical Region and throughout the Indo-Australian Region (Parsons 1998). In Australia, it is represented by two species: *Anthene seltuttus affinis* (Waterhouse & R.E. Turner, 1905) and *A. lycaenoides godeffroyi* (Semper, [1879]). *Anthene seltuttus affinis* has been recorded from Moa Island, Torres Strait and throughout the northeastern mainland as far south as Rockhampton in Queensland, plus the Northern Territory and its neighbouring islands (Braby 2000). *Anthene lycaenoides godeffroyi* has been recorded sporadically from Moa Island to Cannonvale in Queensland and from northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory (Braby 2000).

Discussion

Adult male and female specimens of a dark *Anthene* species were collected by the authors during field trips to Dauan Island in 2001, 2002, 2011 and 2015 (Figs 1-4). A single female was also collected on Saibai Island in 2002. The specimens are darker and larger than any mainland Australian specimens of *A. seltuttus affinis* held by the authors (Figs 5-8). During the 2002 trip to Dauan Island, a single male *A. lycaenoides* (C. Felder, 1860) (Figs 9-10) was also collected by one of us (CEM) and it also appeared larger and more conspicuously marked underneath than any Australian specimens contained in the authors' collections. This led to a review of the literature and a comparison of *Anthene* specimens held in the Brandt Collection in the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, in order to determine the status of the specimens collected.

Tite (1966) recognised five subspecies of *A. seltuttus* (Röber, 1886), two of which occur in Papua New Guinea, with *A. seltuttus seltuttus* occurring on Daru Island, approximately 50 km to the east of Saibai Island (Parsons 1998). Tite (1966) also recognised four subspecies of *A. lycaenoides*, only one of which, *A. l. sutrana* (Fruhstorfer, 1916), occurs in Papua New Guinea

(Parsons 1998). *Anthene seltuttus seltuttus* and *A. lycaenoides sutrana* have not previously been recorded from within the Australian faunal region.

Abbreviations: ANIC – Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra; CEMC – C.E. Meyer Collection, Brisbane; RWPC – R.P. Weir Collection, Darwin; SSBC – S.S. Brown Collection, Bowral; PNG – Papua New Guinea.

***Anthene seltuttus seltuttus* (Röber, 1886)** (Figs 1-4)

Material examined: QUEENSLAND (TORRES STRAIT): 4 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, Dauan Island, 26.iv.2002, 1 ♂, Dauan Island, 17.iv.2015, S.S. Brown (all SSBC); 6 ♂♂, 15 ♀♀, Dauan Island, 11-17.iv.2001, C.E. Meyer & S.S. Brown; 3 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, Dauan Island, 26.iv-2.v.2002, C.E. Meyer, S.S. Brown & R.P. Weir; 1 ♀, Dauan Island, 7-14.i.2011, C.E. Meyer, S.S. Brown & A.I. Knight; 1 ♀, Saibai Island, 19-20.iv.2001, C.E. Meyer & S.S. Brown (all CEMC); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Dauan Island, 17-20.iv.2015, C.E. Meyer (both RPWC).

The authors initially suspected that these specimens were *Anthene paraffinis emoloides* Tite, 1996 but, upon examination of the Brandt specimens of this species and specimens of *Anthene seltuttus seltuttus* in that collection (in ANIC), this was clearly not the case. The black spots on the margin of the hindwing upperside in *A. s. seltuttus* are larger, darker and confluent with the dark marginal band, whereas in *A. paraffinis emoloides* these spots are smaller, rounded and separated from the marginal band. *Anthene paraffinis emoloides* is a paler, more translucent purple in colour and less robust than *A. s. seltuttus*. Genitalia dissections were carried out on male specimens of *A. s. affinis* from Queensland, *A. s. seltuttus* from Dauan Island and *A. paraffinis emoloides* from Woodlark Island (PNG) and, as stated by Tite (1966), the genitalia were identical and provided no means of separating these species.

As Daru Island (PNG) is only some 50 km from Saibai Island and both are near the PNG coast, it is reasonable to expect that this subspecies would occur on the mainland between the two islands and, therefore, it is not surprising that it also occurs on Saibai and Dauan Islands.

***Anthene lycaenoides sutrana* (Fruhstorfer, 1916)** (Figs 9-10)

Material examined: QUEENSLAND (TORRES STRAIT): 1 ♂, Dauan Island, 29.iv.2002, C.E. Meyer, S.S. Brown & R.P. Weir (CEMC).

A review of Parsons (1998) led the authors to believe that the *A. lycaenoides* specimen (Figs 9-10) collected on Dauan Island might be of subspecies *A. l. sutrana*, since it was larger than any *A. l. godeffroyi* specimens held in our collections and the underside ground colour is a darker brownish grey, making the white markings more conspicuous. Examination of *A. l. sutrana* specimens held in the Brandt Collection (in ANIC) confirmed that the Dauan specimen was most closely aligned with that subspecies. It also closely resembles the phenotype of *A. l. sutrana* illustrated by Parsons (1998, pl. 64. 1759-1760) and it is therefore tentatively placed with this subspecies.



Figs 1-8. *Anthene seltuttus* subsp. Upper and undersides of adults: (1-2) *Anthene seltuttus seltuttus*, male; (3-4) *Anthene seltuttus seltuttus* female; (5-6) *Anthene seltuttus affinis* male; (7-8) *Anthene seltuttus affinis* female.



Figs. 9-12. *Anthene lycaenoides* subsp. Upper and undersides of adults: (9-10) *Anthene lycaenoides sutrana*, male from Dauan Island, Torres Strait. Forewing length / wingspan – 16 mm / 26 mm; (11-12) *Anthene lycaenoides godeffroyi*, male from Green Hill, Thursday Island, Torres Strait.

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